

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum  
Board of Directors  
Minutes

April 17, 2003  
3:00 p.m.

Turtle Bay Exploration Park  
Redding, Ca.

Chair Jane Dolan called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. at the above location. It was determined later that there was a quorum of (8) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	(Shirley Lewis)	
Colusa	David Womble	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	Dan Gover	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	(Bill Borror)	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	(Lynnel Pollock)	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			(Mel Dodgin)
Cal DWR		(Dwight Russell)	Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
US F&WS			(Mike Hoover)
US COE			(Mark Charlton)
Bureau of Reclamation			Frank Michny
Cal DWR			Alison Groom

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant, Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters: There were no announcements or unscheduled matters to report.
2. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bend Area Update – Kelly Williams, BLM, was introduced to discuss the status of approximately 17,000 acres owned and managed by BLM in Tehama County. Kelly indicated they have removed some fences and added gates to improve public access. There is now a non-motorized trail with 2 gates from Jelly's Ferry Bridge to Perry Riffle that covers a seven- mile stretch along the river. Kelly noted they are seeing increased usage on their lands including activities such as hunting, horseback riding, and "geo-caching". Dawit Zeleke, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), noted that it was important to know the number of people and types of activities to try to gauge the economic benefits derived. Kelly reported that the conservation easements have been completed on the Gover property; next would be the planning and implementation. Kelly agreed that the SRCAF should participate in the planning

process. Following the presentation, Kelly answered questions from the group. A question was raised about possible mitigation on BLM land and whether or not there was a legal issue regarding mitigation on any federal land. The trespassing issue was also raised and whether the boundaries are clearly indicated; Kelly noted it is a problem as some of the boundaries are not clearly defined. One of the popular fishing locations in the area, the “Barge Hole, was mentioned as an area that has a lot of usage and is in need of management guidelines. The BLM is unable to deal with it because State Lands Commission owns the area; a question was raised as to the possibility of having the county manage the area.

3. Red Bluff Diversion Dam – Update. Frank Michny, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), introduced Michael Urkov, Project Manager from CH2MHILL, to discuss the study that has been done at the dam. The study looked at whether or not the dam is having an appreciable effect on the fish, with spring run Chinook of primary concern. Currently, the gates are lowered into the river for a 4-month period from May 15 to September 15; there are 3 ladders on the dam. The alternatives that were offered to restore fish passage and improve the long-term ability to provide water supplies were: (1) gates-in 4 months/new ladders, gates-in 4 months/bypass (2) gates-in 2 months, new ladders, gates-in 2 months/existing ladders and (3) gates-out all the time. While alternative #2 would provide significant benefit, alternative #3 was determined to be the best alternative for fish passage. The gates-out alternative would have significant impacts to the local economy, both financially and aesthetically, with the loss of Lake Red Bluff. The more the gates are out also increases the pumping costs which raises the issue of cost allocation. The project is on hold at this time until an Endangered Species Act Consultation in San Joaquin is complete; they have decided not to do a stand alone consultation in Red Bluff. On June 9<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento the BOR will hold a workshop for discussion on the draft Biological Assessment; this will not go out for a 60-day public comment period. Diana Jacobs, California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG), discussed a science forum that will be held in Sacramento June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> that will look at fishery issues on a more global scale. She also suggested to Frank the possibility of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Study being included under the CALFED umbrella.
4. Consent Calendar – Because of the lack of a quorum at the start of the meeting, any action items were delayed until a quorum was achieved. Marc Faye moved to adopt the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 minutes, seconded by Ben Carter. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. Board Committee Reports -
  - **Executive Committee** – The Chair reported that the committee had discussed the capacity building effort and the work schedule that had been prepared by the consultant, Marc Smiley. The planning conference has been scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> or July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chair asked that suggestions for a location for the conference be forwarded to the SRCAF staff.  
The schedule for future Board meetings was set as follows: May 15<sup>th</sup>, Willows; June 19<sup>th</sup>, a barbeque, location to be announced; the July Board meeting will be cancelled because of the planning conference; August 21<sup>st</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>

meetings, Willows; the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a day-long follow-up conference.

- **Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC)** – Ben Carter, Chair, reported on the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group is continuing to look at policy item #3 and compared the items they would like to see accomplished against the various state and federal programs available today. The next step will be to prioritize the list to determine which are the most important. There have been concerns expressed about the need for interim protection because of the length of time involved in implementing a conservation plan. One option, which Ben had discussed earlier with the Executive Committee, was incorporating policy #1 and #2 from the Good Neighbor Policy into the project review process. This had been a previous recommendation and referred to items that should be incorporated into habitat restoration proposals and project plans to help avoid negative impacts. Included was the consideration of incorporating buffer zones, barriers, or fences into the development plan to minimize impacts to adjacent landowners. Ben also noted the lack of landowner participation at recent LAC meetings; a future date has not been set until he can determine if a different time or location would help. Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, offered to help in contacting local farm bureaus, water, and reclamation districts to try to encourage participation.
- **PILT/Economic Committee** – Denny Bungarz, Chair, informed the group there were three bills in Congress regarding PILT payments; the legislation is being tracked by several groups, including Regional Council of Rural Counties. The final Socio-Economic Study Report is out and includes all letters and comments; the report is available at [www.sacramentoriverportal.org](http://www.sacramentoriverportal.org). A copy was sent to each of the four counties involved in the study. Additional copies will be sent to any other Board member that wants one; Don Anderson requested a copy.
- **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC)** – Stacy Cepello, Vice Chair, discussed the four projects that were reviewed at the April 1<sup>st</sup> TAC meeting and that would be discussed at today's Board meeting. The projects were:
  - Battle Creek Wildlife Area* – Located in Shasta County, RM 274, this is a restoration project funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) on 33 acres of CDFG property (24 acres riparian/9 acres wetlands). The primary goal is the enhancement of existing wetland habitat area and restoration of riparian habitat with an additional goal of enhancing the public viewing experience.
  - Del Rio Wildland Preserve* – Located in Glenn County at RM 175, the Del Rio property was acquired in 2002 with funding from the WCB. Sacramento River Partners is preparing the 96-acre site for riparian habitat restoration and compatible public access activities. This has been reviewed at the SRCAF previously and has received county support.
  - Gaines Ranch Project* – Located in Glenn County between RM 168 and 169, this is a land acquisition proposal by Sacramento River Partners (SRP) of

approximately 36 acres with funding from WCB. CalTrans has an interest in protecting the Highway 62 bridge from bank erosion; SRP will incorporate bank protection work with restoration in coordination with CalTrans activities. Denny Bungarz noted Glenn County voted 5-0 to support the Gaines Ranch Project.

*Acquisition of Fred Cannell's Thousand Acre Ranch* – Located inside the levee in Colusa County, this project is the acquisition of 60 acres of flood-prone land. Restoration won't be done until the Colusa sub-reach planning is completed. (Stacy noted the Chico Landing Sub-reach Study is complete and on the website: [www.sacramentoriverportal.org](http://www.sacramentoriverportal.org)) The SRCAF Board representatives, Ben Carter and Dave Womble, noted that Cathy Morris from TNC had tried to contact them to discuss this project the day before the meeting but they were unavailable.

Both Board members expressed the need for more lead-time from all project proponents so that Board representatives from the involved counties can discuss a project with county representatives and landowners prior to the Board meetings. It was suggested that the amount of information on a project does not seem to be as big an issue as the timing of making information available.

As was noted earlier, the Executive Committee had discussed the project review process and there had been some suggestions made that might help clarify the process for both reviewer and proponent. It was pointed out that the SRCAF is not a regulatory entity and it should not appear to be one by formalizing the review process too much. Burt will work on developing some guidelines and send out them out to the Project Review Committee for discussion. He will try to have some recommendations for the Board by the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Denny Bungarz moved that a letter be drafted to WCB and TNC indicating the SRCAF Board had reviewed the four projects and there were no issues or objections noted at this time, Don Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Stacy continued with the TAC report and noted that Greg Werner had given a presentation on the CDFG Management Plan. Paul Ward, CDFG, had also reported on a recent game warden training held in Chico where the issue of law enforcement coordination had been discussed. Paul had encouraged the group to follow up on this issue as it is an ongoing problem. Some members have questioned whether more technical information should be presented at the TAC. In that vein, Adam Henderson, Department of Water Resources, gave a presentation to the last TAC on a project that tracked large woody debris in the Sacramento River.

6. Manager's Report – Burt Bundy reported that the Hamilton City, Woodson Bridge, and M&T projects are moving forward; he will provide more information as it becomes available. The Colusa Sub-reach Planning Project should be starting fairly soon. This is a 3-year CALFED grant that will look at the area from Colusa to Princeton; a local stakeholder advisory group will be involved in the process.
7. Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m., Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.